

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 FDRE-00

DHA-02 AGR-05 HEW-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 W
----- 096146

P R 141126Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PGTOGVTY 5142

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF ICRC MR

SUBJECT: SAHARA: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: GENEVA 1065 (NOTAL), NOUAKCHOTT 0321 (NOTAL), NOUAKCHOTT 0329

1. ICRC REQUEST DISCUSSED GENEVA 1065 APPEARSESENTIALLY SAME AS THAT MADE TO CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) AND LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF) IN NOUAKCHOTT, REPORTED NOUAKCHOTT 0329. CRS REP ADVISES REQUEST HAS BEEN SENT CRS NEW YORK. LWF REP TELLS US HE TRANSMITTED REQUEST TO LWF GENEVA, COMMENTING THAT 80 PERCENT OF 20,000 SAHARA POPULATION ARE BELIEVED TO BE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HE ADVISED GENEVA HE INTENDS DISTRIBUTE RELIEF SUPPLIES VIA RED CRESCENT AND WOULD FOLLOW UP VIA THEIR CHANNELS, AS WELL AS HAVING RECEIVED MILITARY PERMISSION TO VISIT DISTRIBUTION POINTS IN SAHARA. HE ADDED THAT LWF AND LICROSS INTEND TO CHARTER AIRCRAFT TO BRING SUPPLIES TO NOUAKCHOTT. REP COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVES THIS DUE TO FACT THAT LWF HAD RECENTLY HAD BAD EXPERIENCE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY WHERE ARMY CONFISCATED SUPPLIES FLOWN

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DIRECTLY TO NEWLY OCCUPIED AREA. THUS, HE THOUGHT THIS IS

PROPER APPROACH. LATE 13 FEBRUARY, HE RECEIVED FUGQHER MESSAGE FROM LWP SAYING IT IS CONSIDERING RELIEF REQUEST AND CONTACTING DONORS. MESSAGE ALSO STATED LWF WOULD ADVISE HIM OF DECISION BY 16 FEBRUARY AND IN MEANTIME HE SHOULD NOT VISIT SAHARA.

2. IT APPARENT THAT VARIOUS AGENCIES RESPONDING TO SAME REQUEST. CRS AND LWF REPS AGREE THAT DONOR COORDINATION IS REQUIRED TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND CONFUSION. WE STRONGLY CONCUR IN THIS RECOMMENDATION.

3. WISH TO NOTE THAT SAHARA RELIEF REQUEST MADE TO VOLAGS IS ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM GIRM REQUEST FOR 83,000 TONS OF FOOD ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS DISCUSSED NOUAKCHOTT 0321 AND WHICH IS INTENDED FOR ALL OF MAURITANIA, NOT SPECIFICALLY FOR SAHARA.

4. UNQUESTIONED NEED FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE IN SAHARA EXISTS. ALL INDICATIONS SHOW THAT THERE IS SIZEABLE NEEDY POPULATION IN MAURITANIAN PORTION OF SAHARA. RESIDENTS OF AREA AS WELL AS DISPLACED PERSONS ARE SHORT OF FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES, FOR WHOM RELIEF MUST BE PROVIDED RAPIDLY. SHOULD USG RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REQUEST CONTAINED GENEVA 1065, WE URGE AID BE CHANNELED THROUGH VOLAGS. WE ASSUME FROM GENEVA 1065 THAT ICRC HAS CONTACTED AMERICAN RED CROSS SOCIETY AND HOPE THAT LATTER ORGANIZATION WILL GIVE

REQUEST SPEEDY AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.HANDYSIDE

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